# SOCM2016 Chairs' Welcome

It is our great pleasure to welcome you to the *4th International Workshop on the Theory and Practice of Social Machines,* associated with WWW 2016. The workshop is a continuation of 3$^{rd}$ *International Workshop on the Theory and Practice of Social Machines (SOCM2015),* held at WWW2015.

Continuing from previous years' "Theory and Practice of Social Machines" workshops at WWW2013, 2014, and 2015, the 2016 edition of the SOCM workshop will look deeply at social machines that have, or may yet soon have, a profound impact on the lives of individuals, businesses, governments, and the society as a whole. Our goal is to discuss issues pertinent to the observation of both extant and yet unrealized social machines building on work of the Web Observatory Workshops of the last two years (WOW2013 and WOW2014). SOCM2016 aims to identify factors that govern the growth or impede these systems to develop, and to identify unmet observation needs or the kinds of loosely-coordinated distributed social systems the Web enables. We also intend to discuss methods to analyze and explore social machines, as essential mechanisms for deriving the guidelines and best practices that will inform the design of social machine observatories.

**Audience**

The workshop foe d5(m)10(ech5(ildlt-5(en)isci5( fol-5(es aan)5(en)iscu)-4(s))-si-5( wo)-5( wo)(tw)-5(e )6(Wtw)-5(e))ll5(e)a5-4(1

# SOCM2016 Organization

**Chairs:**   Sir Nigel Shadbolt *(University of Oxford, UK)*
Elena Simperl *(University of Southampton, UK)*
Thanassis Tiropanis *(University of Southampton, UK)*

**Organizers:**   Dominic Difranzo *(University of Southampton, UK)*
Ramine Tinati *(University of Southampton, UK)*
Kevin Page (*Oxford e-Research Centre, University of Oxford, UK*)

**Programme Committee :**   Ramine Tinati   *(University of Southampton, UK)*
Dominic Difranzo *(University of Southampton, UK)*
Irene Celino (*CEFRIEL, Italy*)
Gianluca Demartini (*University of Sheffield, UK*)
Roberta Cuel (*University of Trento, Italy*)
Ian Brown (*(University of Southampton, UK)*
Xin Wang (*University of Southampton, UK*)
Jun Zhao (*University of Oxford, UK*)
Segolene Tarte  (*Oxford e-Research Centre, University of Oxford, UK*)
Reuben Binns (*University of Oxford, UK*)
John Erickson (*Tetherless World Constellation (RPI), US*)